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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Serial No.: 10/071,177) Group Art Unit: 3652
Filed: February 8, 2002) Examiner: Johnson, Raymond B.
Applicant: Yoshihide Inui) Docket No.: 2718.3071.001
Title: Materials Handling System)

**TRANSMITTAL FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BEFORE MAILING DATE OF EITHER A FINAL ACTION OR NOTICE OF
ALLOWANCE (37 C.F.R. 1.97 (c))**

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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Dear Sir:

In order to comply with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of Form PTO/SB/08A and copies of the U.S. and foreign patents listed thereon are attached.

In accordance with MPEP §§ 609 and 707.05(b), Applicant respectfully requests that each document listed be given thorough consideration and that the Examiner cite each document of record in the prosecution history of the present application by initialing form PTO/SB/08A next to each document. Applicant requests such initialing even if the Examiner does not consider:

- (1) a listed document to be sufficiently pertinent to use in a rejection;
- (2) a document to be prior art for any reason; and
- (3) that the guidelines for citation have been fully complied with respecting a particular document.

Applicant makes this request so that each document becomes cited on the face of a patent issuing on the present application.

Applicant submits the present Information Disclosure Statement in compliance with the duty to disclose information material to patentability under 37 CFR §1.56, but by listing such documents Applicant is not admitting that such documents are necessarily relevant or prior art. Applicant intends no representation that the listed documents represent the results of a complex search. Applicant anticipates that the Examiner, in the normal course of examination, will make an independent search to determine the best prior art consistent with 37 CFR §§ 1.104(a) and 1.106(b) and, in the course of such search, will review for relevance every document listed on the attached form even if not initialed.

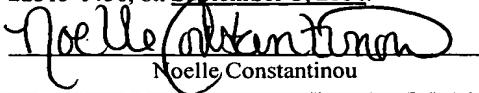
Applicant earnestly solicits early and favorable consideration.

We enclose a copy of the first page of a "Search Report" in which the patents listed in this IDS were identified. The "Search Report" was received by the undersigned in a letter from our Japanese associate dated August 30, 2004.

These items are being filed after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits. No final action under §1.113 or notice of allowance under § 1.311 has been received. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required for this submission to Deposit Account No. 50-0852. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

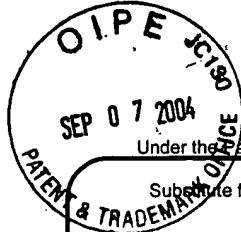
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on September 3, 2004.


Noelle Constantinou

Respectfully submitted,

REISING, ETHINGTON,
BARNES, KISSELLE, P.C.


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~~Substitute~~ for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 1

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/071,177
Filing Date	February 8, 2002
First Named Inventor	Yoshitaka Inui
Art Unit	3652
Examiner Name	Johnson, Raymond B
Attorney Docket Number	2718.3071.001

U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	1	GB 2199022	06-29-1988	Yoshiyuki et al		
	2	JP 3147620	06-24-1991	Takehide		
	3	JP 7179206	07-18-1995	Yoshihiro et al		
	4	JP 10279023	10-20-1998	Tamotsu		
	5	EP 0997401	05-03-2000	Lang		

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.**

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.